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XXI.

A CURIOUS PHENOMENON OF VISION.

In a letter to . . . .

By Rev. PERES FOBES, LL.D. F. A. A.

SIR,

AS a lover of science, and especially of opties, I have been careful to observe whatever has appeared to have any connexion with it. As such, the following instance of a *telescopic eye* has arrested my attention and curiosity, and may probably affect others in the same way. I have therefore sent the case to the American Academy. It happened a few years ago to a man about forty six years of age, whose name is Preserved Pierce, of Somerset, near Slade's Ferry, in the county of . . . . . .

He was painfully exercised with a kind of ulcer collected in his head, on account of which he was for several days confined to his house ; in which time his eye sight was extremely weak and tender, in so much that he could not, without great uneasiness, endure any degree of light. The room was during the whole time constantly darkened. At length however the supposed ulcer broke. This happened in the night. The next morning he was entirely free from pain, and in a state of sensible ease and comfort ; his mind, which before had been greatly depressed and confused, was now quite free and composed. On the return of the morning, the sun being about an hour high, he arose and went to a south window, through which he looked, and to his great surprise he saw, at a place called Reed's warehouse, near the ferry, at the distance of near two miles, a cart and yoke

of oxen. He could plainly discern the colour of the oxen, the rounds in the cart, the stones on the beach, and even the courses and joints in the shingles on the ware-house. This extraordinary degree of acute, telescopic vision continued for about one hour; after which his sight returned to its usual state. His health, which continued for some time after this in a low state, was finally restored; but from that memorable period to the present time he never could see to read or discern small objects without glasses.

I received this account from Mr. Pierce, and from others acquainted with him. I am told that he is a man of judgment and veracity. I should have risqued an attempt to account for this curious phenomenon from the structure of the eye and principles of optics, but time was wanting. But if the fact should be admitted, its solution may be the subject of a future dissertation, with which I hope to offer a communication, that was intended for this meeting, on the production of ore, in which is attempted a chemical investigation of its nature, growth, and generation, founded on experiments; from which it is rendered more than probable, that the farmer will hereafter be able to raise a bed of bog ore as easily, as a bed of carrots.

I am, sir, with esteem,
your most humble servant,
PERES FOBES.

Raynham, August 21, 1793.